

Oveson hears Thistle ideas

10 May 1985

PROVO — Lt. Gov. Val Oveson said Thursday that he will report local concerns about the future of Thistle to Gov. Norman H. Bangertner.

"We want to start the ball rolling to some kind of conclusion," he said.

He met with state and county officials to hear comments on alternatives for what used to be the town of Thistle.

Oveson said the meeting is the first step toward reaching a conclusion about what to do with Thistle and the massive landslide in Spanish Fork Canyon. The slide created a lake that destroyed the town in April 1983.

"We're here to find out who the major players are, what the situation is and the facts surrounding it," Oveson said during the meeting at the Provo Holiday Inn. "What we'd like to achieve here is to look at the alternatives and identify costs and problem areas."

Officials said the slide is a natural dam and a resource that might be utilized in several ways. Alternatives being considered range from doing nothing to developing a full recreation area at the site. The area could be used for flood control or as a water storage facility.

See **THISTLE** on U-2



PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY MCKELLAR

Lt. Gov. Val Oveson jots notes during meeting on Thistle's future.

...duty, profanity), 3:15 and
...nt To Have Fun," ★★★½,
...7), 1:30, 5:15 and 9:15 p.m.;
★★★½, rated PG (vio-
...7 and 9:30 p.m., "Mask,"
...nce, profanity), 1:30, 4:15, 7
...erica," ★★★½, rated R
...p.m. Friday and Saturday
...y Horror Picture Show,"
...s, profanity), "The Termi-
...nce, sex, nudity, profanity);
...iolence, profanity); "Risky
...s, nudity, profanity).

-2560. "Baby, Secret of the
... (violence, profanity, par-
... Saturday matinee "The
...ucing the Care Bear Cous-
...d 5 p.m. Closed Sunday.

ville

...720 N. Main, 489-5401.
...13 (violence, sex, nudity,
...ll of Me," ★★★½, rated
...), 9 p.m.

n Fork

...120 W. Main, 756-3181.
...½, rated PG (violence),
...at 3 p.m.; "Protocol,"
...sex, violence, partial nudi-
...matinee at 3 p.m. Closed

on

...ve. 465-2451. "Amadeus,"
...uity, vulgarity), 7:30 p.m.

Fork

...165 N. Main, 798-9350.
...½, rated PG (violence,
...losed Sunday.

...ver & the Grande Western Railroad
...line to south-central Utah, which run
...through the canyon.

If the dam is put to some kind of
use, the Thistle property might be
purchased by whatever government
entity is running the project. What
happens to the railroad line, now the
subject of litigation between the state
and the D&RGW, will have an impact
on residents of Sevier and Sanpete
counties, Oveson said.

U.S. 89 could be washed out in a
flood year, he said. Alternate align-
ments for the road need to be studied.

State Engineer Bob Morgan said
nine holes have been drilled into the
slide to determine its stability and in-
struments placed to monitor move-
ment. The slide is still shifting, and
more testing is needed, he said.

"The indications are in no way con-
clusive," he said. "We need more tests
to determine the safety of the slide.
Drilling nine holes can't determine
that. Without more testing we are not
in a position to determine slide safe-
ty."

The Legislature appropriated
\$300,000 to investigate the stability of
the slide, Morgan said. That money
has been used and more is needed.

Utah County Engineer Clyde Nay-
lor said that with enough money the
dam can be made safe.

The question, Oveson said, is wheth-
er the benefits would outweigh the
cost.

Thistle property owners feel they
are being well-represented at the
county level and hope to count on Ove-
son for support at the state level, said
Madge Haymond of the Thistle Land-
owners Association.

...my interest from any money.

HB160 requires counties to pay col-
lected tax revenue to taxing entities in
a timely manner and to share the in-
terest. That has never been a problem
for the Provo district, because of its
good relationship with Utah County,
Porter said.

The county may levy a countywide
property tax to pay for collections, in-
stead of billing local entities, Porter
said.

If the county levies that extra tax,
the school district would have to re-
duce its mill-levy revenue by \$178,675.

Many school districts have reached
their statutory taxing limits and can-
not merely raise levies to pay
the higher county collections bill, Por-
ter said. That money has to come

Fair

Continued from U-1

"We put one plant in the light and
then kept the other plant away from
the light to see what would happen.
After about one week the leaves on the
plant in the dark started to die," Coby
said.

Working together with her brothers
was a fun experience, Patti said, be-
cause they are older and know many
things she didn't.

Not only did the three children in
school get involved with the project,
but all of the children at home also
learned from it, said the children's
mother, Tash Johns.

"This whole science fair has been
really interesting and very fun, espe-

...missioners have said they would low-
er the county general-fund levy to off-
set any windfall, Porter said.

"What's being said is they estimate
whatever the cost is, and it comes out
of our hide," board member David C.
Weight said. "We can't have a wind-
fall, but they can."

Board members also expressed
concern the district has no control
over the allocation of collection fees
paid to the county.

"The county is charged with the re-
sponsibility of collecting taxes," Por-
ter said. "It's hard for us to pay the bill
when we have no say in collecting or
how the money is allocated. The coun-
ty doesn't want to levy a tax because
they feel they provide us with a ser-
vice we ought to pay for."

ed up being a family project that we
all learned from," Mrs. Johns said.

The biggest responsibility for the
family was making sure the doors and
windows were shut in the room where
the plant was supposed to remain in
the dark, said Dad, Allen Johns.

At a time when education is under
fire because student scores are some-
times lower in the maths and sciences,
things such as science fairs are moti-
vators for young students, Harrison
said.

"The hands-on experience has been
really great for the kids, and they've
all been really excited about explain-
ing the projects they came up with.
Some of them have been really im-
pressive and amazing for kids their
age to come up with and really know
about it and be able to explain what is

Thistle

Continued from U-1

But before anything can be done, other issues must be examined, Oveson said.

"Safety is the No. 1 issue," he said. "If the slide is safe, we can go from there. If it's safe, we can look at flood control, storage or a recreational area."

Other issues that must be addressed are compensation to landowners who lost property because of the slide and what to do about U.S. 89 and the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad line to south-central Utah, which run through the canyon.

If the dam is put to some kind of use, the Thistle property might be purchased by whatever government entity is running the project. What happens to the railroad line, now the subject of litigation between the state and the D&RGW, will have an impact on residents of Sevier and Sanpete counties, Oveson said.

U.S. 89 could be washed out in a flood year, he said. Alternate alignments for the road need to be studied.

State Engineer Bob Morgan said nine holes have been drilled into the slide to determine its stability and instruments placed to monitor movement. The slide is still shifting, and more testing is needed, he said.

"The indications are in no way conclusive," he said. "We need more tests to determine the safety of the slide. Drilling nine holes can't determine that. Without more testing we are not in a position to determine slide safety."

The Legislature appropriated \$300,000 to investigate the stability of the slide, Morgan said. That money has been used and more is needed.

Utah County Engineer Clyde Naylor said that with enough money the dam can be made safe.

The question, Oveson said, is whether the benefits would outweigh the cost.

Thistle property owners feel they are being well-represented at the state level and hope to count on Oveson

Thistle

Continued from U-1

But before anything can be done, other issues must be examined, Oveson said.

"Safety is the No. 1 issue," he said. "If the slide is safe, we can go from there. If it's safe, we can look at flood control, storage or a recreational area."

Other issues that must be addressed are compensation to landowners who lost property because of the slide and what to do about U.S. 89 and the Denver & Rio Grande Western Railroad line to south-central Utah, which run through the canyon.

If the dam is put to some kind of use, the Thistle property might be purchased by whatever government entity is running the project. What happens to the railroad line, now the subject of litigation between the state and the D&RGW, will have an impact on residents of Sevier and Sanpete counties, Oveson said.

U.S. 89 could be washed out in a flood year, he said. Alternate alignments for the road need to be studied.

State Engineer Bob Morgan said nine holes have been drilled into the slide to determine its stability and instruments placed to monitor movement. The slide is still shifting, and more testing is needed, he said.

"The indications are in no way conclusive," he said. "We need more tests to determine the safety of the slide. Drilling nine holes can't determine that. Without more testing we are not in a position to determine slide safety."

The Legislature appropriated \$300,000 to investigate the stability of the slide, Morgan said. That money has been used and more is needed.

Utah County Engineer Clyde Naylor said that with enough money the dam can be made safe.

The question, Oveson said, is whether the benefits would outweigh the cost.

Thistle property owners feel they are being well-represented at the county level and hope to count on Oveson for support at the state level, said Madge Haymond of the Thistle Landowners Association.